SURREY
matters

SURREY

"These kids have so much to offer"

Supporting children with special educational needs and disabilities

IN THIS ISSUE

AUTUMN 2016

Putting wellbeing at the heart of school life

[illegible] to help care leavers learn skills for life

Meet the young people who've helped make this issue

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Welcome

Linda Kemeny
Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievement

At this time of year many young people across the county will be embarking on new challenges, from starting school to beginning a college course or their first job. Creating opportunities for them to thrive and reach their potential is a priority for the council. It's in that spirit that we've asked some of Surrey's young people to contribute to this issue of Surrey Matters – look out for the boxes throughout the magazine to find out more.

For some children, the challenges they face have an impact on their lives every day and in this issue we meet some of those young people and the parents and carers who support them – like Benedicte and her children Tom and Kesia, who on page 8 share their story of living with special educational needs and disability. We also find out how schools and other local organisations are putting young people's mental health and wellbeing at the heart of what they do – find out more on page 14.

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In each issue, our features highlight real-life examples of Surrey County Council's priorities. Find out more at **surreycc.gov.uk/ourpriorities**

If you would like this magazine in large print, on tape or in another language, please let us know. For advertising opportunities, email **surreymatters@surreycc.gov.uk**

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News

Helping young people in need

Could you offer a young person a safe, friendly and welcoming place to stay for one to three nights? Surrey's Homelessness Host Service is looking for volunteers to provide emergency accommodation for 16–21 year olds at risk of being homeless.

Anyone can be a Volunteer Host, whether you're single, married, have children or are retired, as long as you're over 25 years old and can offer a bedroom with access to communal living areas.

If you think you could offer a welcoming home and support a young person at a difficult time in their life, visit **surreycc.gov.uk/volunteerhostservice** or call 07891 533051 to find out more.

Help stop fly-tipping in Surrey

The amount of waste being illegally dumped in Surrey increased over the past year and cost nearly £1 million to clear up. That's why Surrey's councils and other partners have joined forces to crack down on fly-tipping and to encourage people in Surrey to help by reporting it.

They're also highlighting that it's a home-owner's responsibility to dispose of any waste from their property responsibly and legally. So if a contractor is doing work at your home it's important to check they're registered to carry waste.

For more information on waste disposal, fly-tipping and how to report it, visit **recycleforsurrey.org.uk/flytipping**

THERE'S ONLY ONE YOU

Sometimes our busy lives can make it difficult to stay healthy. Whether you're eating too much of the wrong things, drinking more alcohol than you should, or just not being active enough, all these things can add up. Habits like these can increase your chances of developing illnesses such as type 2 diabetes, cancer and heart disease, but luckily there are lots of small changes you can make to help you stay healthy.

Start off by taking the One You quiz – you'll then get simple, personalised tips based on your results, including suggestions for apps that can help keep you on track. Head to **healthysurrey.org.uk** to get started.

DISCOVER SURREY'S FIRST WORLD WAR MEMORIES

Would you like to find out more about Surrey during the First World War or tell your family's stories from this time? Over the past year Surrey Heritage has been inviting people of all ages to share memories, photos, letters and records from this historic time. Now they're all available to explore online at **surreyinthegreatwar.org.uk**, where you can also upload your own stories and photos.

The website has been set up as part of 'Surrey in the Great War: A County Remembers' – a four-year project supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The project aims to create a lasting digital memorial to the county's role during the First World War, both on the Home Front and foreign battlefields.

Getting Surrey prepared

Just under three years ago the county suffered such severe flooding that the army was called in to help, a reminder that major incidents can and do happen in Surrey.

We've seen that communities that come together during incidents such as extreme weather, fuel shortages or power cuts are better off. That's why Surrey County Council has worked with partners to launch Surrey Prepared, a scheme to help communities be stronger and more resilient by providing everything from information and resources to training and funding.

If you want to help your home and local community be ready for anything, visit **surreycc.gov.uk/surreyprepared**.

In brief...

A NEW ROLE FOR SURREY FIRE AND RESCUE

Safe and Well Visits are a new way that Surrey Fire and Rescue officers and volunteers are helping people in their homes. The visits are free and give safety advice to reduce the risk of fire in the home, as well as advice to help people live safer, more independent lives. Visit **surreycc.gov.uk/[illegible]** or call [illegible].

CHANGES TO BUS SERVICES

Since the start of September there have been changes to a number of local bus services in Surrey, as part of the council's Local Transport Review. Find out more at **surreycc.gov.uk/buses** or by calling **0300 200 1003 ([illegible])**.

BE CLEAR ON LUNG CANCER

Have you had a cough that's lasted for three weeks or more, or do you find you get breathless doing things that you used to do easily? Although it's most likely to be nothing serious it's best to be on the safe side, so book an appointment to get it checked with your GP. Visit **nhs.uk/be-clear-on-cancer** for more information.

PLANNING FOR SURREY'S WASTE SITES

A large amount of waste is produced by Surrey's households. Surrey County Council's waste local plan [illegible] to make sure that enough land is available for the facilities needed to manage it. A review of the plan is due to be undertaken and you can feed in your thoughts on how well it's working by completing the survey at **surreycc.gov.uk/[illegible]** before 25 November 2016. Copies are also available in your local library.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Holly Yorston is a keen volunteer – most recently at Skills Fest, a festival run by the council for children in care and care leavers.

GUEST WRITERS

SAMMY TEKLU, 21 AND SEAN BAINES, 20

are apprentices in Surrey County Council's Children's Rights team.

Could you tell us a bit more about Skills Fest?
This was my third year volunteering at Skills Fest, a festival that helps children in care and care leavers build independent living skills. As well as a huge amount of advice and information there were lots of different workshops at the event, from cooking and budgeting to DIY and CV writing.

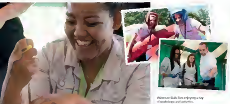
What did your role as a volunteer at the event involve? I helped with setting everything up and making sure it ran smoothly. The young people at the festival could get involved with as many of the workshops as they wanted, and a big part of my role was to join in with them and help them make the most of the event. It was really rewarding to see them so engaged and learning new skills while having fun – I'll definitely be back next year.

Do you do any other volunteering? Yes, I'm a volunteer for the council's Finding Your Feet programme, mentoring young people who have grown up in care. I also help out with a few different groups and organisations that support children who are still living in care.

What do you enjoy about being a volunteer?
The benefits go far beyond helping other people. I've developed so much as a person and have met lots of people from all walks of life who I wouldn't have had the opportunity to meet otherwise. I work at Surrey County Council and I'm really lucky that they have a great volunteering policy and staff are encouraged to volunteer.

Do you have any advice for potential volunteers?
I think people sometimes worry about the level of commitment associated with volunteering, but this shouldn't stop you getting involved. Whether you volunteer regularly, for one day or just a few hours you'll always make a difference.

If you'd like to give volunteering a go, head to **surreycc.gov.uk/volunteer** where you'll find lots of advice and inspiration to help you get started.



Visitors to Skills Fest enjoying a day of workshops and activities.

Put your best foot forward

Staying active doesn't always mean you need to work up a sweat. Walking is a healthy way to explore Surrey's countryside, enjoy time with friends and it's also really easy to build into everyday life.

After walking lots as a child, 49-year-old Viv Onslow from Fetcham rediscovered her love for it after having her own children. She told us the different ways she stays healthy through walking.

Meeting friends

"When my kids started school I met some of the other local mums and we started heading out for a walk once a week. It's so easy to organise and you get to catch up while doing some exercise at the same time. Having a coffee at the end of the walk is a treat too."

Find out more about walking groups where you can meet new people at **walkingforhealth.org.uk**.

Picking up essentials

"Getting some fresh air certainly beats being stuck in my car so I often walk to the shops or the chemist to pick up prescriptions. It's amazing how little things like that can make such a big difference to how healthy I feel."

Visit **healthysurrey.org.uk** to find out how walking can improve your health.

Explore the countryside

"We're so lucky to be blessed with the Surrey Hills. There's so much of the county that can be explored on foot – places like Leith Hill and Ranmore are wonderful! I also have a great little route I like along the River Mole down to Denbies Wine Estate. I love being outside spotting wildlife and noticing how Surrey changes as the seasons come and go."

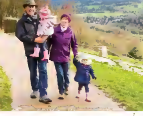
There's lots of information on walking in Surrey's countryside at **surreycc.gov.uk/explore**

Turn walking into a habit by trying some of these:

- Get off the bus a stop or two early and walk the rest of the way.
- Use the stairs instead of the lift.
- Go for a walk with friends instead of meeting them for a drink.
- Walk the kids to school.
- Leave your car at home for short journeys.

Visit **travelsmartsurrey.info/walking** for advice on building more walking into journeys around Surrey.

Keeping families healthy is a priority for Surrey County Council. Find out more at **surreycc.gov.uk/ourpriorities**



"These kids have so much to offer"

In Surrey there are more than 20,000 families with children who have special educational needs and disabilities. The challenges they face can come in all shapes and sizes, from starting school to getting a good night's sleep, and the right support can make a big difference. We met Benedicte Symcox and her children Kesia and Tom at their home in Ashtead to hear their story.

What's your experience of special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)?
My husband Nick and I have three children, all with special educational needs or a disability. Zack, 16, and Kesia, 14, have Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Kesia in particular suffers badly with anxiety. Our youngest son Tom, 13, has Noonan Syndrome, a condition which affects his growth and causes chronic fatigue and heart problems.

How does this affect all your lives?
There's a lot of work involved in accessing the right services for the kids. You need to provide lots of evidence to the council to make sure the children with the greatest need have the right support, so that process can be very long and difficult.

Does it have an impact on your children's experiences of school?
Definitely. Kesia and Tom both started off in mainstream schools, and had an amazing SEND coordinator who helped make the kids as happy as they could be. But there were lots of difficulties as well, from relationships with other children to the resources and training that the school could provide.

Both of them are now in special schools. Kesia started at Limpsfield Grange in Oxted three years ago, and it's been a revelation – within days it felt like we had our daughter back. Tom has been at Stepping Stones, an independent school in Hindhead, for two years. In that time his learning has come on hugely and he's made great friends.

Outside school, which kinds of support have made a difference to your family?
We went on a canal boat holiday through Surrey County Council's short breaks scheme, which was our first ever family holiday. Through an organisation called Cherry Trees, Tom has an overnight trip away every fortnight. As he needs to be tube fed during the night, these trips give me the chance to have an unbroken night's sleep. Independent support officers who the council has referred us to have been brilliant, and Facebook is a great place to get informal support.

And we all look out for each other. Kesi takes a very caring role with Tom and in turn Tom does what he can to cheer Kesi up when she's anxious.

Are there any SEND services that you think need to be improved?
Until recently families would rarely meet their SEND case officer, which could make that relationship difficult. I know the council is under huge financial pressure so resource is a challenge.

But there are now some big changes being made to Surrey's SEND services and I'm hopeful this will make a real difference. There's a lot of work to do, but there are also people in children's services who really care and want things to improve.

You're part of Family Voice, a forum for parent carers of children with SEND. Can you tell us a bit about that?
We work with the council and parents to help shape the best possible services for SEND families. An important part of this is making sure parents experiences are shared with the council as this helps remind everyone involved that there's a child at the centre of the decisions that are being made.

What do you think the future holds for your children?
There's a huge amount of growth and independence happening for them. Kesi's learning guitar, does some volunteering and is about to start her Duke of Edinburgh Award. Zack can take the train on his own now. It can be really difficult for him, especially if there's a change to the journey, but he keeps doing it because it's the only way it will get easier.

If we can help children with SEND to be comfortable in the outside world, there's far more chance that they'll be able to go on and get a job – because if you give them the right support, these kids have so much to offer.

LOVE
LAUGH
LIVE

Surrey County Council is working with its partners and with families to improve services for children with special educational needs and disability. To find out more visit **surreycc.gov.uk/send2020**.

If you're a parent of a child with special educational needs or disability and would like to find out about the support available visit **surreysendlo.co.uk** or call 0300 200 1004.

Find out how you can become part of Family Voice at **familyvoicesurrey.org**.

Protecting our vulnerable children is a priority for Surrey County Council. Find out more at surreycc.gov.uk/ourpriorities

Keeping Surrey moving

Surrey's highways network goes far beyond roads – it's made up of pavements, bridges, drains, pedestrian crossings and junctions that all play a part in either keeping Surrey moving or keeping people safe.

We spoke to Amanda Richards, from Surrey County Council's Highways team, about the cost of maintaining the network and how residents can feed back on how this is done.

How much does it cost to look after Surrey's road network?
It costs £44 million a year to fund the everyday upkeep of Surrey's highways, like repairing potholes. Work such as resurfacing a road or a new drainage system is an extra cost on top of this. It would cost around £30 million a year just to do the long-term improvement work that would keep the road network at its current level. Unfortunately we don't have that to spend so we need to prioritise which parts are worked on and how often.

Why isn't more money spent on resurfacing the roads?
The roads only work if things like drains and junctions are well-maintained – so if we spent more on road surfaces and less on other parts of the network it could compromise both safety and reliability. Our investment in the Horizon project over the past four years has helped improve some of the county's worst roads. We now need to redress the balance by working on the condition of things like our pavements.

How are you doing that?
Earlier this year, we began a £20 million programme to rebuild 200 miles of pavements over five to six years. Residents have told us they need better, safer pavements to get to shops, schools, hospitals and doctors' surgeries.

How can residents have their say on Surrey's road network?
There are a few different ways – through the Highways Customer Panel, local committees or the Resident Experience Board. The board recently heard from some residents about how their Highways complaints had been handled. Thanks to this feedback there's now much closer working between teams and better ways of sharing information with residents. You can also report a problem by going online at **surreycc.gov.uk/highwaysinfo**

Have your say

You can join the Highways Customer Panel by signing up at **surreycc.gov.uk/highwaysinfo** or by calling 0300 200 1003.

The Resident Experience Board is a chance for people in Surrey to attend meetings with council officers and have their say on different council services. For more information go to **surreycc.gov.uk/residentexperienceboard**.

Improving our roads is a priority for Surrey County Council. Find out more at **surreycc.gov.uk/ourpriorities**

Going the extra mile

The Surrey couple making a big difference to the lives of children with disabilities.

In Surrey there are more than 800 children in need of foster care, amongst them children who have a disability or complex health need. For these children it's especially important to be supported by nurturing and resilient foster carers – like John and Wendy Palczynski, who were recently awarded an MBE for the care they've offered to children with disabilities and complex health problems.

Surrey Matters spoke to Wendy to find out what inspired the Guildford couple to start fostering, and the difference it has made to the children they care for.

Firstly, congratulations on your MBE – how does it feel to be honoured by the Queen?

Being awarded an MBE means a great deal. When we got the letter it was so amazing to think that someone, somewhere, had nominated us. We were pinching ourselves for days.

What made you and John decide to become foster carers?

I used to work as a nurse in a hospital special baby care unit and one day I was chatting to a foster carer who was so encouraging that I instantly knew it was something I wanted to do. John and I spoke about it with our children and decided to apply the next day.

How did you become so involved in fostering children with disabilities?

One of the children we fostered had complex needs and sadly died when she was two and a half years old. We'd learnt a lot about caring for a child with a disability and realised it was something we wanted to do more of. We've since seen children who have had a difficult start in life become very settled and that's incredibly rewarding. We receive great support from the council and work with a lot of excellent social workers.

Can you tell us a bit about the children you care for now?

Eight-year-old Summer has been with us since she was two. She was born with a rare genetic disorder called DiGeorge Syndrome, which is linked to heart, lung, bone and muscle problems, as well as learning difficulties. We also foster a five-year-old boy with disabilities.

What advice would you give to anyone thinking about fostering a child?

If fostering is something that you have ever thought about, just do it – it's so rewarding. It really is a privilege to see children thrive, move on and become amazing young people.

To hear Surrey County Council Leader David Hodge speak about his experience of growing up in care, and learn more about what it's like to foster a child, visit **surreycc.gov.uk/fostering** and watch our short films.

If you think you'd like to be a foster carer, whether that's for a child with disabilities or any child in need of a loving home, then we want to hear from you. Call our team on **0800 096 9626** or visit **surreycc.gov.uk/fostering** to find out more.

Protecting our vulnerable children is a priority for Surrey County Council. Find out more at: surreycc.gov.uk/ourpriorities

Buddy up *and get* ONLINE

Getting to grips with technology is a great way to stay independent and keep in touch with family and friends as you get older. Surrey Libraries' Digital Buddy scheme aims to help people do just that.

We met 80-year-old Heather Anderton and volunteer digital buddy Clare Smythson to find out more

Heather's story

"I bought myself a tablet because it felt like everyone was using this new technology apart from older people. I didn't want to get left behind, so thought I should give it a go. But I'd never used computers for work, so needed some help getting started.

"I'd heard about digital courses at libraries, so popped into Redhill Library and they told me about the digital buddy scheme. When I met Clare, my digital buddy, she put me at ease straight away. She started by showing me the basics of how the tablet worked, then we focused on emails. Getting used to the keyboard took a while, but now I can email my friends and even send them photos I've taken of my grandchildren.

"I use the tablet every day now for everything from looking up information about my recycling collection to deciding where to celebrate my birthday. And I listen to the radio on it as well – it's especially handy for catching up with the Archers! I'd like to learn how to do an online supermarket shop next. If the weather was bad it would be great to get my food shopping delivered.

"I've learnt so much from having a digital buddy and I've found a friend in Clare."

"By the end of the first session Heather was emailing photos to friends, having never used a tablet or sent an email before"

Clare's story

"I started volunteering as a digital buddy a few years ago. I was new to Redhill, had just started my own business and had some time to volunteer – something I'd previously done a lot of and wanted to get back into. I now volunteer every Monday afternoon and help about four people each week.

"The idea is that you're there to help people with whatever they'd like to learn. Some people want to learn how to keep in touch with family and friends via email while others use the sessions to get the hang of online banking or shopping – skills which can really help older people to stay independent.

"I saw the difference in Heather's skills and confidence straight away. By the end of the first session she was emailing photos to friends, having never used a tablet or sent an email before.

"I've also learnt lots myself – being a digital buddy means I keep up-to-date with the latest technology. And I've met such lovely people as well."

To find out how you can get help from a digital buddy or if you'd like to volunteer to help other people get online, visit **surreycc.gov.uk/digitalbuddy**

Go digital with Get Online Week

Would you like to learn the basics of using a computer or tablet, make better use of things like email to keep in touch, or just find out what you can do online to make life easier? It's Get Online Week this 17-23 October and there will be lots of events taking place across Surrey to help you get started – visit **surreyinformationpoint.org.uk**, call 0300 200 1001 or pick up a leaflet from your local library to find out more.

Helping you stay independent

As we get older or if we become frail or ill, some of us may start needing more support to help us stay safe and well in our home and there are lots of ways Surrey County Council and its partners can help – whether it's for yourself or for a relative, friend or neighbour.

To find out more, visit **surreyinformationpoint.org.uk**, an online directory of local information on things like health benefits, transport and support for people looking after someone. You can also call 0300 200 1005 (SMS: 07527 182861)

Supporting our vulnerable adults is a priority for Surrey County Council. Find out more at **surreycc.gov.uk/ourpriorities**

Young *minds* MATTER

With stress and anxiety affecting many young people in Surrey, we find out what schools and other organisations are doing to make sure the right support is available.

Exam stress, peer pressure and constant access to the digital world all have an impact on the mental health and wellbeing of young people. A recent study by Surrey County Council's Public Health team found that many pupils in the county's schools were worried about how they look, school work or problems with friends or family.

Putting wellbeing at the heart of school life

The good news is that many schools in the county are developing ways to encourage good mental health, such as the Magna Carta School in Runnymede.

Clare Erasmus, head of mental health and wellbeing at the school told us more.

"Our students said they didn't know where to get help or who to talk to, and that they wanted face to face support. They can now go to our wellbeing zone, where they can speak to trained counsellors and find lots of useful signposting and mental health murals.

"They can also talk to one of our student Wellbeing Ambassadors. Plus we've introduced yoga classes at school, as well as Mindfulness and Movement as an option in the PE Curriculum. The wellbeing of our students really is at the heart of the school"

Pupils at the Magna Carta School also worked with local charity Woking Mind to develop an app My TeenMind. The free app features a tracker to monitor mood swings and information on where to get help inside and outside school.

Supporting young people in Surrey

Surrey County Council is also working to make sure the right mental health support is available to young people who need it. Mindsight Surrey Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) is a partnership between the council and local health and voluntary organisations. Mindsight Surrey CAMHS supports young people with a range of mental health conditions, as well as offering preventative support through **kooth.com** which provides online counselling for children over the age of ten

Time to talk

Sometimes it can be daunting for young people to speak to a parent, carer or teacher about how they're feeling and they may find it easier to talk to another young person. That's where CAMHS Youth Advisors come in. These are young people who have personal experiences with mental health and have been supported by Mindsight Surrey CAMHS themselves.

My TeenMind app

> "Our students said they didn't know where to get help or who to talk to. They can now speak to trained counsellors or to one of our student Wellbeing Ambassadors"

If you're a parent and wondering what you can do at home to help your child, the best advice is to talk. Finding out early on what's causing unhappiness or anxiety is a good place to start. You'll also find more information and advice about mental health and wellbeing including how to access Mindsight Surrey CAMHS, at **healthysurrey.org.uk**. Or you can speak to your GP or other professionals such as health visitors, school nurses or children's centre staff.

Wellbeing... how's yours?

Grace Rivers
Wellbeing Ambassador
Magna Carta School

GUEST WRITER
DANNI WILKINSON, 23

Danni was supported by CAMHS and now works for Surrey Children's Services We asked her to share her top tips for looking after your mental health

Write it down

[illegible] day write down what it was and what made you feel better again. When you [illegible] you can look back [illegible] happy.

Listen to music

[illegible]

Go for a walk

[illegible]

Have a treat

[illegible] ber that I got through that [illegible] will get through many [illegible]

Get involved

[illegible] passionate [illegible] involve yourself in [illegible] that get [illegible] ing your good.

Always talk

[illegible] good or [illegible] about it. A problem [illegible] is a problem halved, and [illegible] this allows others to help [illegible] have to do it on [illegible]

Are you recycling right?

Have you recently checked what you can recycle and what should be thrown away? Sometimes recycling services change and if you've put the wrong items in your recycling bin it might not be emptied. This is because the facilities where your recycling is processed could reject the whole truck load, meaning all the recycling would be thrown away.

Put your knowledge to the test with our quiz, and find out how well you really know your recycling.

1. Which of these items can't be recycled?

☐ Bleach bottle ☐ Toilet roll tube ☐ Crisp packet

2. Can you recycle empty takeaway pizza boxes?

☐ Yes ☐ No

3. Which is the odd one out here?

☐ Plastic bottle ☐ Drinks can ☐ Cereal box ☐ Plastic cutlery

4. It's fine to put my recycling in a tied plastic carrier bag before putting it in my recycling bin

☐ True ☐ False

5. Which of these can go in your recycling bin?

☐ Polystyrene ☐ Kitchen paper ☐ Nappies
☐ Washing up liquid bottle

How did you do?

To find out more about recycling where you live, use the new search tool at **recycleforsurrey.org.uk** or download the Recycle for Surrey app from the App Store or Google Play.

Caring for our environment is a priority for Surrey County Council. Find out more at: **surreycc.gov.uk/ourpriorities**

Answers:

1. Crisp packet – this can't be recycled. **2. Not usually** – any grease or leftover food means pizza boxes can't be recycled. If the pizza box is completely clean then it can be recycled. **3. Plastic cutlery** – this can't be recycled, but the other three items all can. **4. False** – recycling should always be loose in your recycling bin. **5. The washing up liquid bottle** – it's the only one of these four items that can go in your recycling bin, but remember to remove the lid before recycling if you can.

VISIT *Godalming*

Whether it's a visit to the vibrant high street, a stroll along the River Wey or a lazy afternoon in the park, there are lots of attractions to inspire a visit to this historic market town.

A moment of discovery

From the moment you enter Godalming prepare to be wowed by the charming scenery As you walk along the lively high street you won't be able to miss the Pepperpot, a distinctive octagonal building Once the old town hall the Pepperpot now houses a vibrant and well-stocked fruit and vegetable market – a great place to pick up some healthy snacks for your day out.

There's lots more to win over food enthusiasts with the Godalming Farmers Market on the last Saturday of every month and an international food festival that takes place every summer Don t forget to also make time to browse some of the High Street's quirky independent shops.

A riverside stroll

With autumn setting in it s a great time to take in Surrey s wonderful countryside with a scenic stroll along the River Wey Stop for a bite to eat at one of the riverside pubs, such as The Stag on the River in nearby Eashing, or make a day of it – the Godalming Packet Boat and Farncombe Boat House both offer trips along the river as well as boats to hire.

Park life

For a fun day out with the kids, head to Phillip's Memorial Park. Just a short walk from the train station, this beautiful park is home to a children's playground traditional bandstand and the Philips Memorial Cloister It was built in 1913 to commemorate the life of Jack Philips the brave Chief Wireless Telegraphist of the Titanic who was born in the town.

Or you could venture a little further and enjoy a nature-filled adventure at Winkworth Arboretum just a short drive or bus journey from the town where you ll find footpaths, lakes and lots of family activities throughout the year

Getting to Godalming

Why not leave the car at home and enjoy a day out on the train or by bus? Visit **travelsmartsurrey.info** to plan your trip.

Would you like to have your town or village featured in the next issue of Surrey Matters? Email us at surreymatters@surreycc.gov uk or call 03456 009 009

GUEST PHOTOGRAPHER, AMY CAHILL

[illegible]-year-old Amy has a keen interest in travel photography and got behind the lens for our photoshoot in Godalming. Amy lives in Chertsey and has just started her photography A-Level.

Surrey Matters met some locals and visitors to find out what they think of Godalming.

Juliet Borland from Guildford
"I come to Godalming to do my [illegible] and it's a lovely place. [illegible] view of the church from [illegible] bandstand."

Danny Taylor from Milton Keynes
"I've been running a fruit and veg [illegible] the market here for 27 years [illegible] It's a nice, old fashioned town [illegible] friendly people."

Hilary Robertson, a volunteer at Godalming museum
"I love Godalming because it's a [illegible] town with a small community. [illegible] the museum we get visitors from [illegible] far afield as New Zealand, Canada [illegible] the United States."

What's on

OCTOBER-JANUARY

8 October

Surrey Heritage Showcase

Lingfield and Dormansland Community Centre

Discover history on your doorstep at the Surrey Heritage Showcase, with free displays, talks and activities for the family. 12-4pm.

exploringsurreyspast.org.uk/showcase2016

15 October

Camberley Farmers' & Artisan Market

Park Street, Camberley

Try street food and traditional produce at this monthly market, from locally-farmed bacon and fresh fish to continental crepes. 10am-3pm.

07127 625588

collectivelycamberley.co.uk

22 October

A Pocketful of Grimms

Vera Fletcher Hall, Thames Ditton

Watch fairytales brought to life, from Beauty and the Beast to Hansel and Gretel, in this family-friendly production which combines physical theatre, puppetry and music. 2.30pm.

0845 680 1926

verafletcherhall.co.uk

5 November

Guildford Choral Society – Lest We Forget

G Live, Guildford

Don't miss this special concert marking the centenary of the end of the Battle of the Somme. Featuring First World War poetry and Mozart's Requiem Mass, this will be a heart-warming tribute. 7.30pm.

01483 369350 glive.co.uk

26 & 27 November

Christmas Food Festival

Priory Farm, Redhill

Enjoy award-winning pies, West Country ciders and festive produce, start your Christmas shopping or even order a local free-range Turkey.

01737 823304

prioryfarm.co.uk

9 December

The Nutcracker

Haslemere Hall, Haslemere

Experience an evening of music, festive stage designs and dancing as The Royal Ballet's production of The Nutcracker is shown live via satellite. 7.15pm.

01428 642161

haslemerehall.co.uk

21 December – 2 January

Winter Wonders Children's Trail

Winkworth Arboretum, Godalming

Grab your hats and scarves and bring the family to the Christmas children's trail – perfect for getting little ones in the festive spirit. 10am-3pm.

01483 208936

nationaltrust.org.uk

13 January

Winter walk and talk

RHS Garden Wisley, Woking

Wrap up warm for a walk and talk around RHS Garden Wisley led by the garden's team of experts. 1pm-3pm

020 3176 5830

rhs.org.uk/wisley

26 January

The Nick Ross Orchestra Present Sounds of the Glenn Miller Era

Dorking Halls, Dorking

Enjoy an evening of classic Big Band sounds inspired by the music of Glenn Miller. 7.30pm

01306 881717

dorkinghalls.co.uk

www.TheOtterNursery.com

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[illegible] with a Garsons Christmas experience worth £280. This prize includes a luxury afternoon tea for four in the new Garsons Restaurant in Esher, as well as farm shop and garden centre vouchers, a freshly cut Christmas tree and a lighting and decoration pack. Garsons is an award-winning Surrey family business – find out more at **garsons.co.uk**. For your chance to win, answer the following question by Monday 21 November at **surreycc.gov.uk/surreymatters**:

In what year did George Henry Thompson move to West End Village to start the Garsons business?

You can also enter by sending the answer with your name, address and phone number to Surrey Matters, Room G28, County Hall, Penrhyn Road, Kingston Upon Thames, KT1 2DN. For terms and conditions, visit **surreycc.gov.uk/surreymatters**

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Spooky and Sparkly Fun this Autumn and Winter!

Diary Dates

- **Halloween Shriek Week**
  Sat Oct 22nd - Sun Oct 30th
- **Appearance of the Gruffalo**
  Wed Oct 26th
- **Appearance of Hello Kitty**
  Thurs Oct 27th and Sat Nov 26th
- **Winter Wonderland Illuminations Daily Light Show**
  Sat Nov 19th - Mon Jan 2nd
- **Meet Father Christmas in his Christmas Cottage**
  See website for dates, times and prices
- **Meet Father Christmas's Reindeer and Hug a Husky**
  See website for dates and times

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